

62. The filtering face mask of claim 33, wherein the exhalation valve is positioned on the mask body substantially opposite to a wearer's mouth, and wherein the flexible flap is mounted to the valve seat in cantilever fashion.

63. The filtering face mask of claim 42, wherein the flexible flap being held in position between the valve seat and the valve cover by mechanical clamping.

64. The filtering face mask of claim 33, wherein the shape of the orifice does not wholly correspond to the shape of the seal surface.

REMARKS

The title and abstract have been amended to better describe the invention that is being claimed in this case. The specification has been amended to correct a number of errors and to clarify the disclosure. The number 8.3 that has been inserted into page 20 can be easily derived from the information provided on that page and this is not new matter. Using the information pertaining to the orifice area and flow volume, a flow rate of 8.3 m/s can be calculated. Knowing this, a person of ordinary skill would have recognized that the decimal point was off one point (by a factor of 10) in the text. The specification also has been amended to insert language pertinent to the seal surface, now represented in FIG. 4 by numeral 31. Support for the limitation "seal surface" may be found, for example, at FIG. 4 and page 10, lines 4-12.

Claims 1-32 have been cancelled, and new claims 33-64 have been added. Thus, claims 33-64 are now pending in this case.

Dated this 3rd day of October, 2000.

Respectfully submitted,



Karl G. Hanson
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 32,900

Office of Intellectual Property Counsel
3M Innovative Properties Company
3M Center, P.O. Box 33427
St. Paul, Minnesota 55133-3427
Telephone: (651) 736-7776
Facsimile: (651) 736-3833